Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) released the following statement following the vote on HR 2194, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act:

"Today I joined a large, bipartisan majority of my colleagues in passing strong sanctions legislation aimed at halting Iran's nuclear weapons program.

HR 2194, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act will impose sanctions on foreign companies that do business in Iran's energy sector. Because Iran imports much of its gasoline, tough crippling sanctions on Iran's energy sector will place real pressure on the Iranian regime to stop developing nuclear weapons. The legislation also sanctions foreign banks that deal with the Iranian regime or Iranian banks that finance terrorism.

A nuclear-armed Iran would pose an existential threat to the State of Israel and to the stability of the entire Middle East. It would also threaten the security of the United States. We must act now to end Iran's nuclear program. Today Congress took an important step towards curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions by passing

the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act, legislation that I'm proud to co-sponsor. I call on the President to quickly sign and implement this legislation."